

# CALIFORNIA STATE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC HEALTH

WALTER M. DICKIE, M.D., Director

## Weekly Bulletin



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GUY P. JONES  
EDITOR

## May Day—Child Health Day, 1939

Child Health Day activities are sponsored Monday, May 1, by the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, at the request of the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America in accordance with the Congressional Resolution of May 18, 1928, which authorized the President to proclaim May Day as Child Health Day.

Slogan: The health of the child is the power of the nation.

Objectives: To bring to each community. The importance to the child's health, development, and well being throughout life, of proper food, rest, exercise, medical care, and protection against disease; the ways of informing parents and others how child health may be safeguarded; and the means whereby such safeguards may be made available for all children.

California Objectives: To emphasize in each community the importance of maternal and child health to increased:

1. Efficiency in saving mothers and babies for useful, productive lives;
2. Economy for individuals and community by eliminating health hazards;
3. Happiness by physical and mental well-being through proper food, health protection, and education.
4. Success and satisfaction through the accomplishments made possible by good physical and mental health.

A congressional resolution in 1928 authorized the President of the United States to proclaim May Day as Child Health Day. Until four years ago, the

American Child Health Association sponsored the celebration. When that organization ceased to exist, the State and Provincial Health Authorities of North America requested the Children's Bureau, U. S. Department of Labor, to assume the responsibility of sponsoring the observance.

In order to determine how families, communities, schools, public and private agencies may assist in protecting and improving the health of children, some of the pitfalls that beset their paths must be considered.

First, there is the danger of birth itself. Thousands of mothers each year do not live to give birth to their babies or die when the babies are born. Better care for mothers before, during, and after birth will eliminate thousands of maternal and infant deaths.

The first weeks of a baby's life are dangerous, too. Modern science, education, and community cooperation can do much to remove many of the dangers of early infancy.

After the first year, the preschool age is the most dangerous. Pneumonia, diarrhea, accidents and contagious diseases are among the hazards of the preschool years. Immunization and good community health conditions lessen the dangers. According to mortality rates for boys and girls, the years from six to sixteen are the safest.

However, in spite of the fact that the nation, as a whole, has progressed noticeably in providing in-



creased protection for mothers and children, there lies ahead a vast amount of work yet to be done in this field. May Day Child Health Day is the day when the community, as well as the nation, pauses to audit its books on the health and welfare of mothers and babes.

May Day Child Health Day in California should be observed with increased activity and determination to make better the health of children in order to increase the strength of the state and the power of the nation.

Considering the vast number of potential fields of endeavor that May Day Health Day projects may open, it is perhaps best for each county or community to concentrate on one phase of child or maternal health improvement.

The Children's Bureau has suggested that a survey of a community's facilities for the maintenance of good health be made. An outline survey for nutrition guidance has been used as an example as the emphasis this year has been placed on nutrition by the Children's Bureau. Similar survey sheets may be made up by May Day Child Health Day committees to obtain information that may be helpful in determining a project for observance in the county or community, having determined on a project, which might be one of:

#### *Food*

- That is available in the community.
- That is needed for undernourished children.
- That aids in growth and development.

#### *Medical and Dental Care*

- That the community offers to mothers and children.
- That can be publicized so that more prenatal patients, infants, and young children may take advantage of the services offered by counties in cooperation with state and federal agencies.

#### *Protection against disease*

- That provides immunity for children against communicable diseases.
- That is offered by the community, county or state, and other safeguards.

#### *Community groups arrange for the presentation to the public*

1. Of child health needs in the community,
2. For planning by interested groups of joint efforts for advancing maternal and child health during the year, and
3. For launching new child health projects.

*School children*, as a climax to the year's health education program, show by exhibit, demonstration, programs, plays, and pageants what they have learned about safeguarding their own and the community's health.

### LOWEST INFANT MORTALITY RATE RECORDED

There were 4450 infant deaths registered in California last year as compared with 5066 such deaths in 1937. The rate dropped from 53.7 in 1937 to 43.8 in 1938. Since 1920, California's infant mortality rate has been almost cut in half, and in some communities of the state infant mortality rates have been achieved that compare favorably with those of any communities anywhere in the world. If it were not for the large numbers of Mexican infant deaths, California's record in saving the lives of babies would be particularly outstanding. As a matter of fact, the infant mortality rate for the white race in California last year was but a little more than 36 per thousand live births. The reduction in the death rate for Mexican babies was conspicuous last year, however, as in 1937 there were 1479 such deaths registered as compared with 1131 in 1938, the rate falling from 121.5 to 87.6. Deaths in white babies dropped from 3276 in 1937 to 3056 in 1938, the rate falling from 42.2 to 36.4.

Among the counties with infant mortality rates lower than that for the state as a whole are the following: Alameda, Butte, Colusa, Contra Costa, El Dorado, Glenn, Humboldt, Inyo, Lake, Los Angeles, Marin, Napa, San Bernardino, San Francisco, San Mateo, Santa Cruz, Sierra, Siskiyou, Solano, Sonoma, Stanislaus, Tehama, and Yolo. Among the cities having infant mortality rates lower than that for the state as a whole are Alameda, Berkeley, Richmond, Martinez, Bakersfield, Los Angeles, Long Beach, Pasadena, Pomona, Santa Monica, Glendale, Redondo Beach, Whittier, San Rafael, Merced, Pacific Grove, Santa Ana, San Diego, San Francisco, Stockton, San Mateo, Santa Barbara, San Jose, Palo Alto, Santa Cruz, Watsonville, Vallejo, Petaluma, Santa Rosa, Modesto, Visalia, and Porterville.

Among the cities having the lowest infant mortality rates in 1938 are Berkeley, 17.2; Hayward, 16.7; Pasadena, 19.1; Pomona, 19.9; and San Mateo, 18.1. Infant mortality for the larger cities of the state in 1938 and 1937 are as follows:

	1938	1937
Oakland	45.6	45.1
Berkeley	17.2	19.4
Fresno	45.4	46.9
Bakersfield	38.0	69.0
Los Angeles	43.3	52.3
Long Beach	26.2	28.7
Pasadena	19.1	34.5
Glendale	20.8	29.5
Sacramento	44.6	47.1
San Diego	40.1	34.4
San Francisco	29.6	32.2
Stockton	42.9	40.2
Santa Barbara	43.6	59.6
San Jose	29.8	24.8



In consideration of the fact that, for biological reasons, a certain proportion of infant deaths can not be prevented, it would seem that California's infant mortality rate is fast approaching a point of stabilization. Activities in local communities directed toward the health protection of mothers and children have increased greatly during the past year because of the provision of Social Security funds. Infant mortality, to a large extent, however, is affected by conditions that are not under human control, and the annual general trend of the rate is similar throughout most of the country. There is every indication, however, that present activities directed toward the saving of infant lives are productive of results. The infant mortality rate must be regarded as a sensitive index of the health, social and economic conditions that prevail among the communities of the state.

#### INFANT MORTALITY 1938-1937

By counties	1938		1937	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Totals	4450	43.8	5060	53.7
Alameda	281	39.1	281	40.5
Alpine	---	---	---	---
Amador	5	79.4	7	97.2
Butte	38	43.3	34	48.2
Calaveras	4	56.3	8	125.0
Colusa	7	38.9	9	55.2
Contra Costa	41	35.4	45	40.9
Del Norte	4	56.3	3	42.2
El Dorado	3	16.3	4	28.6
Fresno	219	66.9	264	91.3
Glenn	5	34.0	6	38.0
Humboldt	32	42.5	38	54.1
Imperial	161	104.1	190	132.2
Inyo	5	43.5	13	122.6
Kern	183	63.7	274	108.6
Kings	49	66.9	87	131.2
Lake	1	11.6	8	95.2
Lassen	17	53.4	14	44.0
Los Angeles	1397	36.8	1520	42.5
Madera	50	95.0	50	103.3
Marin	12	33.4	9	25.3
Mariposa	---	---	---	---
Mendocino	20	52.2	27	75.0
Merced	58	55.6	68	80.6
Modoc	15	119.0	4	43.9
Mono	1	111.1	---	---
Monterey	67	58.9	71	68.4
Napa	6	18.1	7	23.7
Nevada	15	45.7	8	28.0
Orange	129	60.4	136	66.3
Placer	14	46.3	19	64.2
Plumas	9	54.9	14	84.3
Riverside	119	60.1	145	81.9
Sacramento	122	44.7	118	46.6
San Benito	12	81.1	19	137.7
San Bernardino	147	50.6	187	70.2
San Diego	167	36.7	155	37.1
San Francisco	252	29.6	265	32.2
San Joaquin	100	49.3	137	73.9
San Luis Obispo	29	55.3	21	43.5
San Mateo	14	17.8	23	35.2
Santa Barbara	71	57.2	76	67.4
Santa Clara	115	45.6	159	66.7
Santa Cruz	21	34.4	34	58.7
Shasta	18	51.1	22	78.3
Sierra	1	40.1	---	---
Siskiyou	18	41.4	11	28.6
Solano	19	35.8	25	53.3
Sonoma	34	37.7	26	34.8

By counties	1938		1937	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
Stanislaus	47	35.3	68	53.3
Sutter	22	59.1	25	85.9
Tehama	6	23.1	7	26.2
Trinity	3	120.0	1	47.6
Tulare	128	56.5	168	89.9
Tuolumne	10	55.9	12	84.5
Ventura	100	73.5	103	87.9
Yolo	11	28.6	12	35.1
Yuba	16	66.1	23	93.5

#### INFANT MORTALITY 1938-1937—BY RACE

	1938		1937	
	No.	Rate	No.	Rate
White	3056	36.4	3276	42.2
Negro	105	62.0	103	67.1
Indian	48	106.4	69	158.2
Chinese	15	27.5	23	42.4
Japanese	58	37.9	58	40.4
Mexican	1131	87.6	1479	121.5
Filipino	33	74.3	35	92.8
Others	4	21.7	17	80.2
Totals	4450	---	5060	53.7

#### PHYSICIANS FIND SYPHILIS CASES

Private practitioners in a Michigan county are experiencing a notable increase in venereal disease cases, as a result of an anti-syphilis drive fostered by the local medical society. For sixty days members agreed to take blood samples from all patients who were seeking treatment of any kind. By the end of that period, 7600 specimens had been examined, as compared to 1770 for the previous two months. Of these, 2.4 per cent proved positive. Thus, the physicians found 183 new cases, 100 of them unsuspected, in their own offices.

#### MORBIDITY

##### Complete Reports for Following Diseases for Week Ending April 1, 1939

##### Chickenpox

1173 cases: Alameda County 17, Alameda 12, Berkeley 5, Hayward 5, Livermore 1, Oakland 53, Pleasanton 2, Butte County 14, Gridley 29, Contra Costa County 9, Antioch 4, Concord 2, Crescent City 1, Fresno County 9, Fresno 26, Glenn County 7, Brawley 1, Kern County 14, Bakersfield 2, Kings County 6, Los Angeles County 101, Alhambra 6, Compton 2, Covina 1, El Monte 1, Glendale 12, Huntington Park 14, Inglewood 3, Long Beach 27, Los Angeles 171, Monrovia 9, Montebello 1, Pasadena 13, Pomona 1, Santa Monica 18, Whittier 1, South Gate 16, Maywood 3, Bell 2, Gardena 1, Madera County 11, Chowchilla 1, Mill Valley 1, Sausalito 1, Mariposa County 3, Mendocino County 27, Ukiah 9, Merced County 22, Merced 17, King City 1, Orange County 7, Anaheim 2, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 2, La Habra 3, Roseville 4, Riverside County 3, Corona 5, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 21, Hollister 1, San Bernardino County 3, San Diego County 29, Chula Vista 2, El Cajon 16, Escondido 2, National City 16, San Diego 102, San Francisco 69, San Joaquin County 32, Lodi 3, Stockton 20, Tracy 3, San Luis Obispo County 2, Paso Robles 5, San Mateo County 2, Burlingame 5, Daly City 3, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 3, Santa Maria 3, Santa Clara County 8, Los Gatos 1, Palo Alto 2, San Jose 17, Santa Clara 1, Santa Cruz County 1, Shasta County 1, Redding 3, Solano County 1, Benicia 1, Sonoma County 3, Tehama County 1, Red Bluff 3, Tulare County 26, Porterville 1, Tulare 1, Tuolumne County 1, Fillmore 1, Santa Paula 3, Yolo County 8.

##### Diphtheria

20 cases: Concord 1, Imperial County 1, Los Angeles County 1, Burbank 1, Glendale 1, Los Angeles 5, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Monterey 1, Sacramento 3, San Diego 1, San Francisco 1, San Jose 1, Yuba County 1.

##### German Measles

40 cases: Alameda County 2, Alameda 2, Berkeley 2, Oakland 2, Bakersfield 3, Los Angeles County 4, Compton 1, Long Beach



1, Los Angeles 1, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, San Gabriel 1, South Gate 1, San Rafael 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 3, Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Joaquin County 1, Stockton 1, San Mateo County 1, Redwood City 1, Lompoc 1, Tulare County 2, Visalia 2.

#### Influenza

556 cases: Alameda 1, Berkeley 24, Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 22, Fresno County 1, Kern County 159, Los Angeles County 17, Glendale 2, Inglewood 1, Long Beach 3, Los Angeles 191, Montebello 1, Pomona 1, South Gate 6, Monterey Park 1, Bell 1, Gardena 1, Madera County 7, Belvedere 3, Sausalito 4, Monterey County 1, Fullerton 1, Santa Ana 1, Roseville 10, Plumas County 41, San Benito County 19, San Bernardino County 6, San Diego County 1, San Diego 1, San Francisco 13, Santa Barbara County 2, Santa Maria 4, Tulare County 1, Visalia 5, Ventura 1.

#### Malaria

One case: Bakersfield.

#### Measles

4503 cases: Alameda County 75, Alameda 93, Albany 16, Berkeley 322, Hayward 1, Oakland 345, Piedmont 10, Pleasanton 1, San Leandro 31, Butte County 4, Gridley 4, Contra Costa County 90, Antioch 11, Concord 2, El Cerrito 6, Martinez 16, Pinole 5, Pittsburg 10, Richmond 120, Walnut Creek 3, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 7, Fresno 15, Kingsburg 1, Glenn County 1, Arcata 15, Eureka 2, Imperial 1, Inyo County 17, Bishop 72, Kern County 3, Bakersfield 3, Kings County 1, Lake County 20, Lakeport 5, Los Angeles County 215, Alhambra 7, Burbank 3, Claremont 1, Compton 3, Culver City 16, El Monte 1, Glendale 45, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 6, Inglewood 10, La Verne 14, Long Beach 113, Los Angeles 867, Manhattan 1, Monrovia 8, Montebello 4, Pasadena 11, Pomona 4, Redondo 5, San Fernando 1, San Gabriel 1, Santa Monica 21, South Pasadena 1, Torrance 7, Lynwood 29, South Gate 15, Monterey Park 3, Signal Hill 2, Maywood 3, Bell 3, Gardena 4, Madera County 7, Marin County 5, Mill Valley 5, San Rafael 8, Yosemite National Park 3, Ukiah 44, Merced County 11, Gustine 1, Merced 2, Mono County 3, Monterey County 4, Salinas 3, Napa County 2, Orange County 21, Anaheim 6, Brea 1, Fullerton 12, Huntington Beach 67, Newport Beach 2, Santa Ana 1, Laguna Beach 2, Tustin 1, Roseville 20, Plumas County 2, Riverside County 40, Banning 4, Beaumont 7, Corona 19, Elsinore 3, Hemet 2, Perris 5, Riverside 41, Indio 31, Palm Springs 16, Sacramento County 29, Sacramento 276, North Sacramento 1, San Bernardino County 18, Colton 1, Ontario 1, Redlands 2, San Bernardino 23, San Diego County 3, La Mesa 1, National City 7, San Diego 80, San Francisco 161, San Joaquin County 43, Lodi 9, Stockton 46, Tracy 3, San Luis Obispo County 29, Paso Robles 37, San Mateo County 72, Burlingame 10, Daly City 6, Redwood City 12, San Bruno 1, San Mateo 21, South San Francisco 1, Atherton 4, San Carlos 7, Menlo Park 21, Belmont 2, Santa Barbara County 5, Lompoc 1, Santa Maria 1, Santa Clara County 99, Gilroy 11, Los Gatos 5, Mountain View 2, Palo Alto 15, San Jose 49, Sunnyvale 19, Santa Cruz County 10, Watsonville 16, Shasta County 5, Solano County 7, Benicia 21, Vallejo 1, Sonoma County 79, Healdsburg 3, Petaluma 9, Stanislaus County 26, Ceres 2, Modesto 3, Turlock 1, Porterville 13, Tuolumne County 1, Yolo County 16.

#### Mumps

1202 cases: Alameda County 14, Alameda 4, Albany 4, Berkeley 71, Hayward 1, Oakland 114, Piedmont 15, San Leandro 5, Contra Costa County 51, Antioch 17, Concord 2, El Cerrito 2, Martinez 19, Pittsburg 6, Richmond 25, Walnut Creek 6, El Dorado County 1, Fresno County 17, Fresno 12, Kingsburg 2, Kern County 43, Bakersfield 4, Kings County 7, Lake County 1, Los Angeles County 14, Alhambra 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Hermosa 1, Huntington Park 1, Long Beach 1, Los Angeles 68, Monrovia 9, Pasadena 7, Pomona 1, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 3, Lynwood 1, Bell 2, Gardena 1, Madera County 6, Chowchilla 2, Belvedere 1, Mill Valley 4, San Rafael 5, Mendocino County 10, Fort Bragg 1, Ukiah 1, Merced County 16, Gustine 2, Merced 32, Monterey 1, Soledad 4, Napa County 1, Napa 1, Huntington Beach 1, Roseville 2, Plumas County 8, Riverside County 9, Banning 1, Beaumont 22, Blythe 1, Perris 1, Riverside 2, Sacramento County 3, Sacramento 65, North Sacramento 1, Hollister 3, San Bernardino County 1, San Diego County 10, San Diego 13, San Francisco 81, San Joaquin County 83, Stockton 44, San Luis Obispo County 5, San Luis Obispo 5, San Mateo County 10, Burlingame 5, San Mateo 1, Menlo Park 1, Santa Barbara County 1, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 25, Gilroy 7, Mountain View 1, San Jose 5, Sunnyvale 2, Santa Cruz County 13, Watsonville 2, Shasta County 3, Redding 8, Siskiyou County 11, Solano County 4, Benicia 13, Fairfield 1, Rio Vista 12, Vallejo 2, Stanislaus County 9, Modesto 1, Sutter County 1, Tulare County 20, Porterville 1, Visalia 12, Tuolumne County 1, Oxnard 1, Santa Paula 4, Yolo County 14, Woodland 3, Yuba County 2.

#### Pneumonia (Lobar)

80 cases: Oakland 3, Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 1, Eureka 2, Kern County 1, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 6, Glendale 2, Los Angeles 30, Pasadena 3, Pomona 2, Riverside County 4, Corona 3, Sacramento County 1, Sacramento 7, San Diego 1, San Francisco 9, Santa Barbara 1, Modesto 1, Yuba County 1.

#### Scarlet Fever

220 cases: Alameda County 1, Oakland 3, Butte County 1, Biggs 1, Chico 1, Colusa County 4, Contra Costa County 5, Placerville 1, Fresno County 3, Fresno 1, Glenn County 1, Eureka 2,

Imperial County 3, Calexico 1, Kern County 4, Tehachapi 2, Kings County 3, Los Angeles County 30, Alhambra 2, Burbank 2, Compton 2, El Monte 1, El Segundo 1, Glendale 2, Long Beach 2, Los Angeles 38, Monrovia 1, Montebello 1, Pasadena 1, Pomona 5, Santa Monica 1, Whittier 1, Lynwood 2, Monterey Park 1, Merced 1, Monterey County 2, Nevada City 2, La Habra 1, Riverside County 1, Blythe 1, Corona 2, Elsinore 2, Riverside 2, San Bernardino County 3, Ontario 1, Redlands 1, San Bernardino 2, San Diego County 1, San Diego 5, San Francisco 20, San Joaquin County 5, Stockton 1, San Luis Obispo County 1, Hillsborough 1, Redwood City 1, Santa Barbara County 4, Santa Barbara 1, Santa Clara County 5, Gilroy 1, Mountain View 2, San Jose 4, Santa Cruz County 1, Solano County 3, Sonoma County 1, Stanislaus County 1, Tehama County 2, Red Bluff 2, Tulare County 3, Tulare 1, Yolo County 1, Davis 2.

#### Smallpox

22 cases: Fresno County 1, Eureka 1, Imperial County 3, Calipatria 1, Long Beach 1, Sacramento 5, San Benito County 3, Hollister 3, San Bernardino County 2, Daly City 1, Tulare County 1.

#### Typhoid Fever

One case: California.\*

#### Whooping Cough

182 cases: Albany 2, Berkeley 3, Oakland 3, Kern County 17, Bakersfield 1, Los Angeles County 12, Hermosa 2, Huntington Park 4, Long Beach 11, Los Angeles 31, Pasadena 1, Pomona 1, Redondo 4, San Fernando 1, Santa Monica 2, Monterey Park 1, Bell 1, Gardena 1, Merced County 6, Orange County 2, Anaheim 15, Fullerton 2, Santa Ana 4, Riverside County 2, Corona 1, San Diego County 9, National City 1, San Diego 15, San Francisco 5, San Luis Obispo County 2, San Mateo 2, Santa Barbara 5, Ventura County 7, Oxnard 2, Ventura 2, Yolo County 1, Marysville 1.

#### Meningitis (Epidemic)

One case: Long Beach.

#### Dysentery (Amoebic)

2 cases: Fresno 1, San Francisco 1.

#### Dysentery (Bacillary)

6 cases: Los Angeles 5, San Diego 1.

#### Trachoma

6 cases: Los Angeles County 2, Blythe 2, Indio 2.

#### Paratyphoid Fever

2 cases: Tehama County.

#### Trichinosis

One case: Oakland.

#### Botulism

One case: Los Angeles.

#### Jaundice (Epidemic)

3 cases: Santa Clara County.

#### Food Poisoning

2 cases: San Luis Obispo County 1, San Mateo 1.

#### Undulant Fever

4 cases: Pomona 1, San Bernardino County 2, Palo Alto 1.

#### Actinomycosis

One case: Napa County.

#### Coccidioidal Granuloma

2 cases: Kern County 1, Kings County 1.

#### Septic Sore Throat

One case: Belvedere.

#### Rabies (Animal)

26 cases: Contra Costa County 1, Fresno County 2, Kings County 1, Corcoran 1, Hanford 2, Los Angeles County 2, Los Angeles 5, Manhattan 1, Lynwood 1, Bell 1, Chowchilla 1, Monterey 1, Pacific Grove 2, San Joaquin County 1, San Luis Obispo 1, San Jose 2, Santa Cruz County 1.

\*Cases charged to "California" represent patients ill before entering the state or those who contracted their illness traveling about the state throughout the incubation period of the disease. These cases are not chargeable to any one locality.

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